

**Glenn Brackett**

**Address:** 1221 W. Woolman Street  
Butte, MT 59701

**Phone:** 406-782-5552

**Email:** [booboy@sweetgrassrods.com](mailto:booboy@sweetgrassrods.com)

**Web Site:** [www.sweetgrassrods.com](http://www.sweetgrassrods.com)

**Medium:** fiber

**Medium:** Bamboo

**About the Artist:**

Glenn Brackett, of Butte, is widely considered to be one of the preeminent bamboo flyfishing rod builders of the current era. He grew up in the San Francisco area, learning to fish from his father and grandfather, who also took him to the R.L. Winston Rod Company headquarters (founded in 1929). There he was introduced to the men who worked with bamboo. Glenn never lost the passion that grew out of those experiences.

Brackett received his degree in Fisheries Biology from Humboldt State, signed up for the Peace Corps, served in the Army, returning to begin a career in flyfishing as a guide and a professional fly tier. In the 1970's, he began working for Winston Rods in San Francisco, becoming one of the company owners and moving the business to Twin Bridges, "where the fishing was good."

**About the Work:**

In 1991, Brackett sold his interest in Winston Rods, but remained as the master craftsman and head of the bamboo rod building department. By this time, bamboo rod building was a dying craft, accounting for less than one per cent of Winston's sales. Bamboo was being supplanted first by fiberglass and then graphite. Compared to graphite, bamboo rods have a slower action, but those who appreciate bamboo, point to the connection to a slower, more contemplative time.

Brackett is now the owner of Sweetgrass Rods, a company founded after he left Winston. Sweetgrass Rods, under his stewardship, has become a leader in the renewed interest in bamboo rods. In 2012, he was inducted into the Catskills Rod Makers Hall of Fame. He is a patient teacher and helps anyone coming through the doors of Sweetgrass Rods. His efforts to restore bamboo rods that have been in service for over 100 years indicates his selfless dedication to the craft. The very fact that he has chosen to dedicate his life to the preservation of bamboo fly rod building is indicative of his long and arduous efforts to build awareness of this art form.

Photos by: Meagan Thompson and Chris Autio